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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 21 | Humidity 79% Mostly cloudy Sensex 59,106 | Nifty 17,398 | Gold 60,552 | Silver 74,384 | Dollar 82.12 | Euro 90.01 | GBP 102.70

Major roads, western parts of Bengaluru have most polluted air, study reveals; 'lowest PM 2.5 concentrations observed in Indiranagar area'

AIR UNFAIR

Central Pollution Control Board's safe limit for PM 2.5 is 60 µg m-3

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> **"Authorities should look at establishing representative regulatory air pollution monitoring stations in rural and peri-urban areas and auditing unorganised polluting industries and activities in city outskirts**
>
> — Dr Pratima Singh, CSTEP

A recent analysis of air quality of nearly 1,000 km of city roads showed major roads and western parts of Bengaluru are the most polluted areas in the city.

The study conducted by the Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) recorded a high daytime concentration of PM 2.5 (>88 µg m-3) on major roads such as Bengaluru–Mysuru Road, NICE Road, Kanakapura Road, Magadi Main Road and Tumakuru Road.

Areas such as Dasarahalli, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, parts of Bommanahalli, and a few other places in west Bengaluru recorded a daytime on-road concentration of particulate matter between 72 and 80 µg m-3 (micrograms per cubic metre).

As per Central Pollution Control Board's standards, the safe limit for PM 2.5 is 60 µg m-3. The short-term standard of PM 2.5 concentration is 35 µg m-3 as per the World Health Organisation.

"We sampled three air pollutants over approximately 10% of the city roads covering different road types and neighbourhoods. We have found that major

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

Unjust: what women face at work

Victims of sexual assault, harassment at workplace say despite proof, companies, police not helping them get justice

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Bengaluru is witnessing rising crimes against women every day, from heinous instances of physical violation to sexual harassment at workplace.

However, only a handful of victims are able to get justice. Victims of sexual assault at workplace claimed that despite having proofs, their company and police have not been able to help them get justice.

According to the latest data by National Crime Records Bureau, Bengaluru registered ten cases of sexual harassment at work place or office premises. Karnataka recorded 28 victims of sexual harassment at work place in 2021.

For instance, a 40-year-old woman who was sexually harassed by her colleague at work has been waiting for justice since 2020. The incident took place in February 2020, when the victim was working as a medical researcher for a corporate firm. According to the victim, she was harassed by her manager — several others at work supported the alleged assaulter, she said. She claimed there were six persons involved and even the human resources (HR) team at her company refused to take any action.

The victim said when she complained about the harassment, the people at the office didn't take her seriously despite

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Read, read, read

Atta Galatta's book club happens every month, on the second Saturday. It is a safe space, run by Rohini Malur, for book lovers to share and listen to all things books. In April, members will be reading PG Wodehouse- something fun!
Where: Atta Galatta; When: April 8, 3 pm – 5 pm
Contact: Harshita, 9632510126

02 Flamenco, live

Attakkalari presents "A Palo Seco" by Sara Cano Dance Company from Spain directed by the acclaimed Flamenco dancer and choreographer Sara Cano. The performance features the talented Cristina Azorla, accompanied by live music by Albert Fernández. It is a unique opportunity for audiences to experience the beauty and passion of Flamenco dance at its best.
Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
When: April 5, 7:30pm
Tickets: https://imojo.in/apaloseco

03 Old vs new

'Surnai Theatre And Folk Arts Foundation' presents Ila Arun's adaptation of the play in Hindi as 'Peechha Karti Parchayyaiyan'. It is the story of the erstwhile royal families in India, still living on their past feudal glories, clutching on to old traditions and decrepit lifestyles. The play focuses on how these outdated traditions and their repercussions come back to haunt future generations as ghosts of the past, preventing them from breaking away from these shackles perpetuated by their ancestors.
Where: Ranga Shankara; When: April 7, 7:30pm

Oh, what a match!

IPL frenzy returns after three years and eateries and pubs are making the most of it

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Restaurants and pubs are packed to the rafters with people making a beeline to watch their favourite team in action

The Indian Premier League (IPL) has returned after a three-year break and fans are eagerly booking tickets in advance to watch the cricket matches at the stadium in Namma Bengaluru.

The first match was held on April 2 at Chinnaswamy stadium which was jam-packed as the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) made their mark in their win against Mumbai Indians (MI).

With the excitement still high, fans are already prepping up for the next match scheduled on April 10 against Lucknow Super Giants at the stadium.

And on April 6, the RCB will play against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

For the days when RCB is playing away from home, people are booking hotels and restaurants to watch the match with their friends on the big screens.

Many are even making sure they catch the matches screened in restaurants to get the full vibe. Clubs in the city like Bowring Institute and KSCA are also having match screenings.

Restaurants are taking full advantage of the IPL season by curating special dishes and having an IPL theme at their restaurants.

Many eateries have already started to get advance bookings during the days when RCB matches are played.

Rajesh Menon, VP and Head of Royal Challengers Bangalore, said, "Our Game Nights get booked out in advance. We have noticed that RCB matches draw fans consistently. Irrespective of the day of the week, these matches always bring in a full house. Given the growing sports culture in the city, we see a major turnout throughout the year for screenings of popular sports such as cricket, football, tennis, hockey, and F1."

Deepak Irudaya, Food & Beverages manager at Hotel Royal Orchid Bangalore, revealed that they have a special IPL theme to draw the attention of the crowd.

Bengalureans are going as far as booking hotels and restaurants to watch the matches live with close ones

He said that the IPL theme decor and props available on the menu for fans to cheer are great ways to enhance the overall experience of watching the match at the restaurant. This can create a lively and engaging atmosphere that fans can enjoy, and a way to encourage them to visit the restaurant more often for future matches or events.

"We see more crowds during RCB matches compared to other team matches. The spirit of Bengalureans is highly visible during RCB matches," he added.

Restaurants are also offering special curated menus and dine-in offers to attract customers. Debaditya Chaudhury, Managing Director of Chowman, said, "We have several dine-in and take-away offers for patrons. We have also designed combo meals for one for both veg and non-veg lovers with items like Shanghai Fried Rice, Wok Tossed Hakka Noodles, Babycorn and Button Mushroom, Kung Pao Veg and more."

At Hotel Royal Orchid, IPL-themed starters based on the team that plays on the day like Vada Pav during Mumbai Indian matches, Kebabs for Sunrisers Hyderabad match days, Kathi Rolls during Kolkata Knight Riders are on the menu.

Meanwhile, at RCB Bar & Cafe, some of the most popular pairings include Royal Challengers' Flambee Wings & Royal Challenge Whisky, Belgium Pork Belly & Dash of RCB Whiskey Sour, and the Tres Leches & Madikeri Mudslide.

State of urban air pollution

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

roads with high vehicular movements have high concentrations of PM 2.5, leading to high exposure to the commuters," said Dr Pratima Singh of CSTEP.

The lowest PM 2.5 concentrations were observed in the Indiranagar area. Residential areas such as Indiranagar, HSR Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, and Malleswaram showed a gradient of PM 2.5 concentration. Pollution levels in these areas decreased away from the main roads. Black Carbon and Ultra Fine Particles spatial maps also exhibited a spatial pattern similar to PM2.5.

The analysis developed high-resolution maps of ambient air pollution levels; they revealed that peri-urban and rural districts of Bengaluru have almost similar pollution levels; regulatory monitors need to be installed in non-urban areas,

According to experts, underdeveloped roads, an increase in vehicular movement, waste burning, high construction activities and the presence of industries in semi-urban and rural areas of the city are the major causes of rising pollution.

"Regional strategies for the reduction of air pollution should be adopted rather than opting for city specific action plans. The authorities should look at establishing representative regulatory air pollution monitoring stations in rural and peri-urban areas and auditing unorganised polluting industries and activities in the outskirts of Bengaluru," said Dr Singh.

Air quality experts at CSTEP said mitigation activities to bring down vehicular emissions in the western parts of the city should be prioritised looking at the high PM 2.5 values. They said replacing the diesel fleet with CNG or electric vehicles is low-hanging fruit and should be taken up aggressively.

"We need to understand the kind and number of vehicles plying on these roads, especially diesel buses. These buses spew a lot of smoke. The best mitigation would be to shift diesel buses to CNG or electric ones. This will lead to a good amount of reduction in the concentration of PM 2.5. We have already witnessed traffic relief in Hebbal and Gurgantapalya areas. Such measures will yield results too," added Dr Singh.

Under the study, mobile monitoring of PM 2.5 concentration was complemented by a city wide 55-node stationary low-cost sensor (LCS) network that covered different land-use types. Experts said supplementary monitoring using LCSs in addition to regulatory monitoring in selected areas is the need of the hour. However, it has to be done with caution.

"LCSs cannot be used to monitor air pollution blindly. That will give wrong results and misguide the citizens. A hybrid monitoring system is the need of the hour. There are little over 30 reference grade monitors in the city, but they are not effectively covering the entire city. There are challenges with LCSs and thus they have to be first co-located and their performance in relation to reference grade monitors should be observed before they are deployed," Dr Singh told BM.

No questions asked as lake turns debris dump

Road work in Hosakerehalli Lake stops, but desilting, mud dumping raise new concerns

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Hosakerehalli Lake is in dire need of attention and locals want authorities to be more cooperative

The residents' fight to save Hosakerehalli Lake in south Bengaluru seems to be reaching nowhere as the authorities continue to stonewall the concerns raised by locals over the revival of the waterbody.

Locals say while the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had promised to clear mud that was dumped for roadwork encroaching the lake area, it has been sliced and dumped into the water body.

"Instead of removing the mud that was dumped to create a 20-feet-wide road, they have pushed it into the lake. All the debris has gone inside the water body. Moreover, BBMP has started desilting the southern part of the water body. The lake was de-silted in 2017 by BDA, so it is unnecessary to desilt it again. Too much dredging will destabilise the water body," said Joseph Hoover, a conservationist who has been involved in the issue.

When BM reached out to BBMP officials, they said that desilting is required in this case as the lake has been receiving sewage for a long time. The officials also claimed that the mud dumped around the lake was not for a road project but for a temporary structure to carry out lake rejuvenation work that has been pending for a long time.

> **Instead of removing the mud, they have simply dumped it in the water body**
> –Joseph Hoover, a conservationist

"We were creating a temporary structure for the machines to navigate and revive the water body. As far as desilting is concerned, it is required as the lake filled up over the last five years," said a senior official from BBMP's Lake Department.

However, locals are now worried about the ongoing water draining work taken up by the BBMP's contractor haphazardly. They say the water is flooding the nearby underpass and creating an unhygienic situation for commuters.

"The underpass around the lake is now flooded with stinking water. They are putting the health of the commuters and locals in the area at risk," said a resident.

Many allege that BBMP is trying to hoodwink the citizen by not providing basic information on the ongoing work.

"We are being made to run from pillar to post to understand what work is going on the ground. Moreover, the officials are rude and refuse to provide basic information. We had to tell them categorically to not yell at residents as we are there only to get information," rued a resident and a lake activist.

Locals also claim that while the citizens have repeatedly attempted to get in touch with officials to be involved in the lake revival process, the officials have only stonewalled them so far.

"The civic body should sit with the locals and decide on infrastructure facilities. However, it has become a one-sided game in the case of Bengaluru. All the unnecessary infrastructure projects are pushed down on us. We have been enquiring about the timeline for the rejuvenation of Hosakerehalli, but BBMP has constantly maintained that there is no funding available for the project. It is high time that the civic body should work on rebuilding people's trust," said another resident.

In favour of 'love'

The Karnataka High Court has directed prison authorities to release a convict on parole for 15 days so that he could get married to his girlfriend, on the grounds that it is an 'extraordinary circumstance'.

The mother and lover of the convict, who is serving a 10-year term for murder, approached the court fearing the latter was being married off to someone else.

The Additional Government Advocate, however, submitted to the court "that there is no provision for grant of parole to get married".

He submitted that if it were to be anybody else's marriage that the detenue wanted to attend, it would have been a different circumstance.

However, Justice M Nagaprasanna considered this as an extraordinary situation that warranted parole to the convict, Anand.

> **High Court directs release of convict on parole so that he can get married to his girlfriend**

Anand's mother Rathnamma and lover Neetha G, had approached the High Court with the petition.

In the petition, 30-year-old Neetha claimed that she would be married off to someone else and, therefore, Anand should be granted parole to marry her.

She claimed to be in love with Anand for the last nine years. He was sentenced to life imprisonment for murder which was later reduced to 10 years imprisonment. He has already served six years of the sentence.

The court recorded the submission of the advocate for the mother and his girlfriend.

"Would contend that the release of the detenue is imperative, otherwise, he will lose the love of his life. Being in prison, he cannot bear the agony of his love getting married to someone else and therefore, seeks emergency parole on any condition that would be imposed upon the petitioner," the court said. **PTI**

At 70, she's a superwoman for hundreds

Septuagenarian saves lives of train passengers with her quick thinking

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It's never too late to be a superhero and Chandravati, a 70-year-old woman from a remote village near Mangaluru, proved just that when she saved the lives of hundreds of train passengers with her quick thinking and courage.

It all started when a tree fell on the railway tracks just as the Matsyagandha Express was about to cross. With no one around to help, Chandravati decided to take matters into her own hands.

Chandravati knew she had to act fast. She grabbed a red saree and a rope and started waving the red cloth towards the oncoming train. Thanks to her quick thinking, the loco pilot was able to spot the red saree and slow down the train, ultimately preventing a catastrophic accident.

But it didn't end there. When other people arrived at the scene, she even provided them with a knife and drinking water to help remove the coconut tree from the tracks. As the train finally moved at 3:30 pm, all the passengers were waving their hands in gratitude.

When asked how she knew the exact timing of the train, Chandravati revealed that her sister who lives in Mumbai often visited her by taking the Matsyagandha train. As someone who lives near the railway line, she was aware of the importance of a red flag during emergencies. In fact, many railway personnel routinely remind the locals to wave a red flag in case of an emergency.

> **Chandravati grabbed a red saree and rope and got the attention of the loco pilot**

For Chandravati, her bravery was not just a spur of the moment decision. She had a personal tragedy with the railway track in the past. Her husband had gone to a nearby shop many years ago, but was found unconscious on a railway track later. His death still remains a mystery.

Ever since her act, Chandravati has become somewhat of a local celebrity. Her phone has been ringing non-stop as people have been calling her to ask how she mustered the courage to do what she did. She is now reaching out to politicians to ask them to provide a road to her remote village.

‘Don’t fund unscientific Mysuru Road skywalk’

BBMP faces fire for delay in project, ‘poor quality’ of construction

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KAUSHIK JN

The skywalk on Mysuru Road near Kengeri Traffic Transit Management Center; the project was proposed back in 2021 as a part of a larger plan to develop inter-modal hubs at six suburban stations

The skywalk near Kengeri Traffic Transit Management Center was proposed in 2021 as part of a larger plan to develop inter-modal hubs at six suburban stations, which are yet to be completed and opened to the public. After promising to open the skywalk 25 days later, three months ago, BBMP has now assured that the contractor will hand over the project to them within 20 days.

The skywalk on Mysuru Road was supposed to be a major development in the area, connecting the suburban station, metro station, and bus station. However, years later, the skywalk is yet to be completed, and residents are unsure about the quality of the work.

“I just went to Kengeri yesterday. The elevators haven’t been fitted, and there is a hole there. The railings have been completed. Connectivity to the metro station has not started on the TTMC side. Currently, Kengeri Traffic Police officials have to deploy men to ensure the safety of pedestrians,” said Dhruv, a commuter.

The skywalk on the busy stretch could help safeguard pedestrians who are currently risking their lives to cross the road. Residents have been urging the Palike to complete the work soon.

A civic activist and resident of Kengeri, Sudarshan S, said, “The skywalk has been constructed in an unscientific manner. The construction is not convenient for the elderly and disabled. Even in areas where skywalks are constructed, people choose to walk on roads. The installed lifts stop functioning after a point.”

Activists have written to BBMP administrator Rakesh Singh and BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath to stop releasing funds for the project. They have also requested the agency to ask IISC to conduct a study on the skywalk and prepare a report.

However, BBMP officials maintain that the skywalk will be opened in 20 days. “The delay was primarily due to a shortage of expert hands in Bengaluru, and they had to be brought from Bihar,” said a senior official.

BBMP is in the process of constructing 14 skywalks that have been tendered out in two packages. Skywalks have been proposed at ORR Badrappa Layout, near Devi Nagar bus stop, Lottegollahalli, near Laggere Bridge bus stop, and other areas under package 1. Under Package 2, skywalks have been proposed at areas including Subbaramachetty Road, ORR, and Mysuru Road.

> **“I went to Kengeri yesterday. The elevators haven’t been fitted; there is a hole. Connectivity to the metro station has not started on the TTMC side** – Dhruv, commuter

As per an RTI report filed by Sudarshan, BBMP officials stated that the 14 skywalks are being built at an estimated Rs 53.52 crore, out of which Rs 22.43 crore has been estimated for Package 1 and Rs 20.41 for Package 2. Rs 15 crores has been released for the project, and an estimated Rs 20 crore RA bill has been generated for the project as payments to the contractor. The delay in completing the skywalk near Kengeri Traffic Transit Management Center has raised concerns among residents and activists about the quality of work and safety for pedestrians.

City set for Karaga tomorrow

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Bengaluru, the Silicon Valley of India, is gearing up for an ancient and world-famous festival called Karaga. The festival is celebrated at the Dharmarayaswamy temple, which is the main place where Karaga pooja is held before it starts heading to other localities. The festival is a significant event in the city’s cultural calendar and its history goes back over a thousand years. “I never miss watching Karaga as it is a special occasion,” said Chandan G, a techie.

Deepak Shetty, a businessman, said, “There is a festive atmosphere, especially at those places where the Karaga procession takes place. People spend the whole night watching the Karaga move around. Every year, my family and I head to the Karaga route to have a glimpse of Bengaluru’s special program.”

Tracing the rich history of Karaga, former Bangalore University Vice-chancellor KR Venugopal said, “The Vahni-Kula Kshatriya community has a rich history dating back to the seventh century AD. It is said to have originated from a Yagna performed by Shambhu Maharishi at Mount Abu in Rajasthan, which resulted in the emergence of a great warrior from the celestial fire and the creation of the Agnikula/Vanni kula Kshatriya race. The word Vahni is derived from the Sanskrit word for ‘fire’.”

Several famous kings of the Vahni-Kula Kshatriya dynasty are mentioned in stone edicts/inscriptions. The oldest Dharmarayaswamy temple in Bangalore was built by the Vahni-Kula Kshatriyas in 1100 AD. It is the only temple in the country built to worship the five brothers and their consort Draupadi and signifies the emergence of Draupadi as a symbol of strength and family, he informed. The temple reflects the architectural styles of the Western Gangas, Cholas, Pallavas, and the Vijayanagar Kingdoms. It was renovated in the 16th century by Kempegowda, the founder of Bengaluru.

He further said that the Karaga festival is a world-famous celebration that is a symbol of communal harmony and has been celebrated in the city for over a thousand years. During this festival, the Draupadi deity is taken out of the temple once a year on a full moon day, accompanied by air-rendering and thundering ‘Govinda’ chanting hymns by sword-bearing Veera Kumars, who are members of the Vahni-Kula Kshatriya community. In Karnataka, they are the original inhabitants of Bengaluru City, Urban and Rural districts, and are involved in agriculture - especially growing vegetables, fruits, flowers, and greens.

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Unbarricaded drain

Nandini Layout

There is a very deep, unbarricaded stormwater drain near the bus stand in Nandini Layout.

Footpath

Coles Park

Pedestrians using the footpath next to Coles Park face obstacles as vending carts occupy the space.

Remove the trash

Ramamurthynagar

The entrance to Ramamurthynagar, near Holy Family Church, is filled with garbage on every corner.

Pause in scorching heat, expect some rain now

Areas in Bengaluru record temperature closer to Kalaburagi, partly cloudy sky with light rain expected towards night

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Bengaluru's temperature has been racing to above-average levels, as revealed by latest statistics provided by the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Committee.

On Monday, the highest temperature in the city was recorded in Ullal and Kengeri, with the mercury reaching 37.1 degrees Celsius. It is surprising that some areas in Bengaluru were closer to the temperature to Kalaburagi, which recorded the highest maximum temperature of 39.2 degrees Celsius across the state.

However, the temperatures cooled by Monday evening due to heavy rainfall in north west Bengaluru. The wards of Mallasandra, Bagalagunte, and T Dasarahalli recorded the highest rainfall of 39 mm, followed by 37.5 mm of rainfall in Shettihalli and 35 mm at Lakshmidevi Nagar.

The temperature in B'luru cooled by Monday evening due to rainfall

Due to heavy rainfall, there was damage in a few places, with trees uprooted and branches falling to the ground. In Bagalagunte ward, which received the highest rainfall on Monday night, a coconut tree fell down on a live wire. Fortunately, there were no human casualties, but a compound wall partially collapsed due to the force.

For the next 24 hours, the city is expected to have a partly cloudy sky, with light rain likely towards evening/night. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning are expected to occur in isolated areas of Bengaluru rural, Bengaluru urban, Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Mandya, Mysuru, Hassan, and Ramanagara districts of south interior Karnataka within the next few hours.

Heavy rain disrupts flight operations at KIA

On Tuesday, inclement weather conditions, including heavy rain and strong crosswinds, caused disruptions to flight operations at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru's outskirts, specifically in Devanahalli. According to an airport official, 14 flights were diverted, with 7 belonging to Indigo, 3 to Vistara, 2 to Akasa Airlines, and 1 each to Go Air and Air India. Of the diverted flights, 12 were sent to Chennai, 1 to Coimbatore, and 1 to Hyderabad. Additionally, 6 departures were delayed due to the weather.

The airport official mentioned that normal operations had resumed later in the day and that the diverted flights to Chennai were being refueled and would return to Bengaluru soon. The heavy rainfall also affected traffic in and around Devanahalli, with the KIA receiving 452 mm of precipitation on Tuesday evening.

Electric vehicles: Give it a go

National Green Tribunal orders states and union territories to develop action plan in order to promote hybrid electric vehicles

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Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) issued an order directing the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as well as states and union territories to prepare an action plan that promotes the use of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs).

In an order dated March 27, the tribunal asked to promote hybrid electric vehicles along with pure electric vehicles. The suggestion came against the backdrop of efforts to reduce pollution from the transport sector.

Further, the NGT noted that battery electric vehicles (EVs) must be promoted, but also emphasised the promotion of hybrid electric vehicles that utilise fuel and battery power until pure EVs become more prominent.

The CPCB, states and union territories, and other ministries have been asked to prepare an action plan to execute the recommendations within 3 months.

"Hybrid vehicles are playing an important role in India's transition to clean energy. Hybrid vehicles produce approximately 17-28 per cent fewer emissions per km than internal combustion engine vehicles –Spurthi Ravuri

According to experts, there are around 2.1 million electric vehicles in India, with over 900 thousand being two-wheelers and the same number being e-rickshaws/autos, 4,000 electric buses, and 55,000 cars

However, experts point out that increased adoption of HEVs could ease consumers into the EV field.

Spurthi Ravuri,a senior associate at Green Mobility, CSTEP said, "Hybrid vehicles are playing an important role in India's transition to clean energy. Hybrid vehicles produce approximately 17-28 per cent fewer emissions per km than internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles. At the same time, hybrid vehicles address range anxiety and can ease more people's transition to EVs."

She added that drivers of HEVs will be able to transition better as the driving experience is similar. Manufacturers will also be at an advantage in set-up well-tested manufacturing units. However, being a premium range vehicle, HEVs cost 50-60 per cent higher than ICE vehicles.

Furthermore, experts pointed out that HEVs play a smaller step in the transition towards EVs.

"Till we have a robust charging infrastructure and we green our electricity grid, HEVs can be a smaller step to the bigger goal. However, we don't have strong HEVs in the Indian market and those variants will take us one step closer to EVs," explained Ravuri. Currently, in the Indian market, most hybrid EV segments are primarily focused on four-wheelers.

"There are around 2.1 million EVs in India, with over 900 thousand being two-wheelers and the same number being e-rickshaws/autos, 4,000 electric buses, and 55,000 cars. The EV market is maturing and FAME subsidy is also making way for more adoption. It's clear in the two-wheeler and bus segments as well. Whichever path leads to faster cognizance is welcome, but as currently, HEVs are only focused on cars," another expert told Bangalore Mirror.

HEVs are only an intermittent solution and the final goal is to transition to EVs. At the rate at which the market is maturing, we might not require an intermittent step but the segment selection should be based on consumer demand. There are multiple pathways and for some segments, it could be hydrogen or biofuels, they added.

Kannada actress files complaint

A Kannada actress in Bengaluru has filed a police complaint against a YouTuber for asking "if she would act in obscene films" and demanded legal action against him, police said on Tuesday.

The complaint was submitted to the Malleswaram police station. The YouTuber has been identified as Sushaan. The actor has stated that freedom does not give license to the interviewer to ask such questions.

"Sushaan asked me whether I will act in nude films. I have built my career with struggle. I have acted in small roles so far and bagged a major role in 'Pentagon' Kannada movie," she said.

The video clip of the interview has gone viral on social media. After the accused asks her the embarrassing question, the actor says that 'she is not a blue film star and why should he ask such a question in the first place?' She also scolds the YouTuber for "lacking common sense". **–IANS**

One-month-old dies of covid-19

A one-month-old baby boy from Shivamogga district has tragically passed away due to covid-19, according to the latest health bulletin released on Tuesday. The infant, who had been suffering from fever, cough, and breathlessness, remained unresponsive to treatment for seven days before eventually succumbing to the virus.

The state of Karnataka saw a surge in new covid-19 cases on Tuesday, with 324 individuals testing positive, out of which 198 were from Bengaluru. The state's test positivity rate stood at 3.1%, indicating an increase in the spread of the disease.

Hospitalisation numbers are also on the rise, with 80 patients receiving treatment across various medical facilities, including two who require ventilator support and eight in critical care. This unfortunate incident underscores the continued threat posed by the pandemic. **–BMB**

Fighting on with collective action

Apartment complex owners are creating voting awareness on their premises

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The Legislative Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in Karnataka on May 10 to elect all 224 members of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly. In order to improve the voter turnout this year and help citizens make informed decisions, many people are volunteering to create awareness among citizens about the importance of casting their votes. Resident welfare associations (RWAs) and apartment complex owners are creating awareness on their premises.

Citizens have created a group called 'Mission 100 per cent Voting', involving citizens and providing information about the voting process while being willing to answer queries. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, who is also the District Electoral Officer, has undertaken the task of creating awareness among people on the importance of voting in different zones.

For those who still do not have their voter ID, volunteers are helping them register online or explaining the registration process in person by downloading Form 6 from the Election Commission of India's website or by visiting a local electoral registration office and submitting the form.

Vinod Jacob from Namma Bengaluru Foundation said, "There has been an urban apathy during elections, and historically, the voting percentage in Bengaluru has been low compared to rural cities. Along with the BBMP, we are creating awareness amongst the public, with a major focus on urban voters. Usually, when the elections fall on weekends and people get a long weekend, they do not vote but instead go out of town. Now, with the elections falling on a weekday, everyone can come forward and cast their vote. There is time till April 11 for people to get their voter ID, and citizens can either visit their local BBMP office or register online on the voter helpline app."

Another volunteer pointed out that the motto is to strengthen the community through collective action. "The action plan is to first help citizens get their voter IDs. Next, create awareness on downloading apps prescribed by the Election Commission. Thirdly, create awareness of the importance of the election on all social media through posts and videos and involving celebrities to talk about elections. We will also create a list of the candidates people can vote for in their respective constituencies," said a volunteer.

POLL VAULT

File photograph of citizens waiting in two queues at the by-election to ward 36 in the MCC

> **There has been urban apathy during polls; voting percentage in B'luru has been low compared to rural cities**
> – Vinod Jacob, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

There will be four or five volunteers in every street or zone. On the day of the election, their role will be to go door to door and ask people if they have voted. Those who have not will be reminded to go out and cast their vote.

"The idea is also to help senior citizens and people with disabilities to cast their vote easily without any hassles. The volunteers will obtain help from the Election Commission to assist these citizens," said Jacob.

The BBMP has also engaged celebrities like Rishab Shetty and cricketer Rahul Dravid to create awareness about voting. More notable personalities will be involved in creating awareness.

BJP is not for honest politicians: Cong

The opposition Congress in Karnataka on Tuesday criticised the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the state after five-time party legislator Halady Srinivas Shetty from Kundapur constituency in Udupi district announced his retirement from electoral politics.

Taking to social media, the Congress said "The leader of Bunt community, MLA Halady Srinivas Shetty has announced political retirement after being humiliated by the BJP".

"Even as Halady was inducted into the Cabinet, he was not offered any high post in the party. Now, with a painful message, he has announced his retirement from politics. The development has shown that the BJP is not a party for good people," the Congress said in a social media post.

The Congress claimed that "the only reason for the retirement of Halady Srinivas Shetty, who was not a typical BJP person, is harassment".

He was elected five consecutive times, and was a powerful leader from the Bunt community.

Srinivas Shetty had announced that he would not contest in the upcoming assembly elections on April 3.

He was elected as an MLA four times on a BJP ticket, and won the elections once as an independent candidate.

Shetty's retirement announcement is being seen as a setback to the ruling BJP ahead of the May 10 Karnataka assembly polls.

BJP targets Congress for 'fake' list of candidates

Meanwhile, the BJP, on Tuesday, dismissed as 'fake' a purported list of candidates for the May 10 Assembly elections in Karnataka that is in circulation on social media, and alleged that it was a "lie manufactured in the Congress factory".

The ruling party has not yet released the list of candidates and is likely to come out with one after its Parliamentary Board meeting on April 8.

The "fake" four-page list of candidates for 81 constituencies is in circulation on social media with the claim that it had been released by the Central Election Committee of the BJP on Tuesday after a meeting chaired by party national president P Nadda. However, the party issued a statement quoting its national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh as saying that the list is fake.

Wife won't contest polls: Kumaraswamy

JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy said, "Hassan politics is different, my wife's politics is different," as he rejected media reports about his wife and party MLA Anitha Kumaraswamy's "demand" to contest May 10 Karnataka Assembly polls.

Anitha had earlier contested elections to save the party, when it did not have a candidate in certain prime constituencies, he said, adding that she has no interest in electoral politics.

(With Agency Inputs)

IN BRIEF

New faces in 1st list: CM

Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday stated that the BJP would announce tickets to new faces in several constituencies in the first list.

Talking to reporters ahead of the state election committee meeting, CM Bommai stated that there are going to be surprise packages. "In this general election there will be a surprise in the selection of candidates.

"New experimentation will be done in many places. This has been successful in many states. We will field candidates who will surprise," he reiterated.

Two-day district committees meeting over the selection of candidates has been over. "We will hold meetings today and the list of candidates will be sent to the central committee. On April 8, the list would be announced by the central committee," Bommai explained.

"The tickets would be distributed in a democratic manner. The list is being prepared after getting reports from the grassroots level and on the basis of ground realities," he said.

Bommai is reaching New Delhi on April 7 in connection with candidate selection, according to sources.. **IANS**

Cong CEC meets to finalise 100 candidates

Congress' Central Election Committee is meeting on Tuesday to finalise the remaining 100 candidates for the Karnataka Assembly polls.

Ahead of the meeting, party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said, "The committee will consider the names of candidates who are strong and can win in the election and give a considerable fight to the opponent."

He said that the committee will prefer a consensus on the names of the candidates.

According to insiders, the selection of candidates for 30 constituencies is crucial as powerful candidates are aspirants for each of the seats.

There is a chance of dissidence and leaders are carefully considering the candidatures so that the BJP do not get any advantage. The party will have to announce a list of 100 candidates.

The party will have to accommodate leaders who have resigned from their posts and joined the Congress.

Some leaders have already staged protests and urged that the leaders who worked for the Congress for years must be considered.

The party is upbeat as it has not faced any major discord after the announcement of the first list of candidates. **IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Coconut water is rich in nutrients like calcium, iron, and vitamin C, which can help to boost the immune system and reduce inflammation in the body

Onions contain magnesium, which is needed for rebalancing your body clock and giving you a good night's sleep

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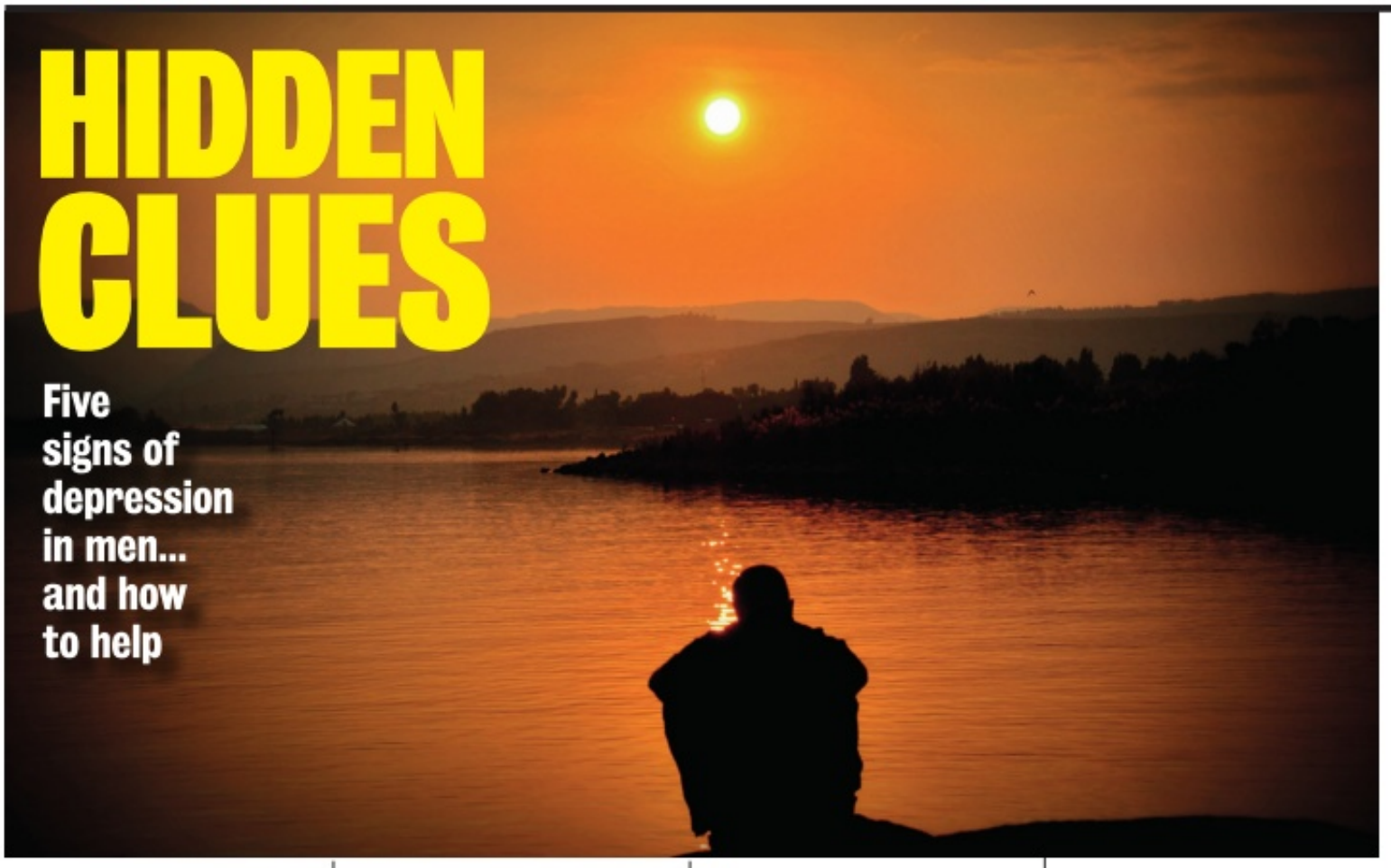
HIDDEN CLUES

Five signs of depression in men... and how to help



Depression is more common than you might think - approximately one in four people in the UK will experience problems with their mental health each year. But spotting when someone you love is struggling can be difficult, even if you see them every day.

"Men are less likely to seek help for depression, so it's important to know what to look out for in order to show your support and encourage them to get the help they need," says Sarah Coghlan, global director Men's Health Promotion at Movember.

"Sadness, apathy and withdrawal are often thought of as typical symptoms of depression and while men can experience any or all of these, depression is often missed in men because the symptoms can be different."

Here are Sarah's five key signs to look out for - and her tips on how you can be most useful when someone is suffering.

Anger and irritability

Men are more likely to experience anger and irritability as a result of depression, as opposed to sadness and withdrawal.

If your friend or partner seems to snap more easily than they used to or is unusually quick to lose their temper or becomes verbally hostile towards others, that may be a sign they're struggling and need support.

Loss of appetite

Depression can affect our appetite and change our relationship with food. It can cause us to eat more than usual, or it can lead to a loss of appetite.

If someone is routinely eating less than usual, shows little interest in food or perhaps has put on or lost a significant amount of weight, it could be a sign they are struggling.

Constant fatigue

Tiredness is another sign of depression that is often missed. It can make everyday tasks such as going to work, taking care of children or preparing meals feel impossible. Someone may even start speaking or moving more slowly than usual and have little motivation to do anything.

If a loved one reports sleeping problems that go beyond the occasional bad night, either sleeping too little or too much, having trouble getting out of bed in the morning or feeling constantly fatigued (where there is no obvious physical cause), they may need some mental health support.

Persistent head, stomach or muscle pains (with no other discernible medical cause) can also be clues.

Indecisiveness

If someone close to you begins to display difficulty in making decisions once would have come easily to it might be an indication they are low.

People with depression tend to avoid decision making and are slower to make choices.

The reason for this is that motivation is impaired in people with depression, without it the rewards of making a decision are reduced.

Loss of interest in favourite activities

While it is normal to feel sad and lack motivation sometimes, if your friend or loved one is opting out of activities used to enjoy, it can be a red flag. Skipping drinks at the pub, or football training, making excuses when you suggest meeting up, or if they seem to have dropped hobbies or friends, may all be signs they're struggling with their mental health .

How to help

If you are concerned about a friend or loved one, there are practical steps you can take to offer your support. Arrange a time to chat: Don't make vague plans or hide behind a screen. Set a specific time and date to get together in person.

If someone finds it difficult to talk, especially when the focus is all on them, try doing something else as a distraction. Some men will find it easier and less pressured to open up during a walk or a bike ride than if they're sitting directly opposite you.

Offer empathy and support, not solutions: You don't have to have the answers. Just be their friend. Listen well. Ask open-ended questions that encourage them to keep sharing. One example could be: "How is this affecting you most?"

Reduce the stigma: For some men it's hard talking about depression, much less getting the help they need, because of the stigma around it.

Lots of men are taught from an early age that they have to appear tough or strong and that emotion is a sign of weakness. Take stigma out of the picture, perhaps by sharing your own experiences if applicable.

Encourage them to seek help: Remind them that seeking help is a valid and necessary investment in their wellbeing. If they're reluctant to get professional help, you could offer to find someone who might be a good fit for them.

Alternatively, let their GP know what's going on. They may be able to arrange an emergency appointment, though be aware a doctor might need to share the information you have given them with the person you have spoken to them about.

Follow up: Check in with your friend regularly. Make it a priority. Even if they seem to be doing better, reach out to let them know they're not alone, offer practical support., or just get outside together.

TALKING SUICIDE

If someone mentions suicidal thoughts, never dismiss what they have said or tell yourself they didn't really mean it.

Try and encourage them to open up about how they are feeling .

It is normal and understandable not to know what to say, or to feel uncomfortable with the conversation, but it's important to let them know they are not alone and that you care about them.

When someone tells you they are feeling suicidal, your first thought might be to try and find a solution to their problems, give them advice or compare their circumstances to someone whose situation seems worse. But these responses are unlikely to be helpful.

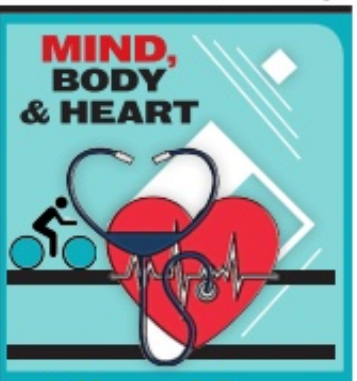
Reassurance, respect and support. are what is needed to help someone to recover from a difficult time.

Rather than criticising or apportioning blame, ask about their reasons for wanting to end their life and listen to the answers.

Reassure them that they won't feel this way forever and that the intensity of feelings can reduce in time. Encourage them to focus on getting through the day rather than dwelling on the future. Remember, you don't need to find an answer or even to completely understand why they feel the way they do.

Try to keep them safe in the short term by not leaving them on their own, keep talking to them and remove any items that could put them in harm's way.

—Daily Mirror



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I've been with my partner since 2016 and we got engaged a year ago, and are due to get married in August. Although we've had ups and downs like most couples, I would say our relationship has been good and we're close.
So I was blindsided when he confessed recently to having a short-lived affair two years after we got together, while I was away staying with my sister.
He said it like it didn't matter because it meant nothing and our relationship was quite new. It was with a girl he knew through work and it only lasted a couple of weeks, so he claims. To be honest, I don't know what to believe any more as my trust in him has been destroyed - it's like I don't even know him. How can I marry him now?

COLEEN SAYS

Well, he's done a big guilt dump, so now you have to deal with it.
I imagine he's relieved the cat's out of the bag and hopes you'll just move on and that'll be an end to it.
We all know (apart from him, it seems) that it's not that easy! Be very clear that you will never be able to trust him again unless he starts talking to you about what happened and why it happened.
There's no way he can expect you to walk happily down that aisle and marry him unless you unpack this and feel confident that you can move on and still want to be with him.
Putting the wedding plans on hold or pushing the date back will give you the time you need to work through it.
I'd also suggest relationship therapy to support the process.
And don't worry about upsetting your friends and family – you can't go through with a wedding just so you please others. Marriage is an important step and you need to be 100% sure that your heart's in it and he's fully committed before you both take the leap.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Women await justice at workplace

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her having several electronic and physical proofs.

"At first, I complained to the women's commission and then at the JP Nagar police station. When there was no action from both the authorities, I approached DCP south division; but I got no response from them. For the last three years, I have been visiting police stations and authorities seeking justice. But, the person who harassed me was not even called to the police station. The company didn't take any action against them," she said.

Poorna, a lawyer working at the Alternative Law Forum, told BM there is a structural power imbalance between the companies and women fighting against them. She noted that the Indian legal system is prone to make these cases long winding.

"When it comes to instances of harassment against women, it becomes difficult to get speedy justice. One of the reasons is the lack of willingness from authorities to move these cases faster; the other is the shortcoming of the system that doesn't make a woman feel safe enough to take the case forward. So, women start questioning themselves if it's worth the effort as sometimes they are not able to safeguard the job after the complaint is filed; there is no institution where they can safeguard their mental health. In most cases the woman is fighting the management of a big corporation; it can become difficult for her to gather resources of any kind to keep fighting," she said.

Recent reports claimed there was a decline in sexual harassment cases at workplace during the pandemic as offices were closed; but, Poorna argued that sexual harassment is not limited to physical harassment. She added that the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at the workplace should not only work for redressal of complaints but also prevention and prohibition. "Even when there are no active complaints, companies should work towards making a safer environment for employees. If more ICCs work towards doing that, we would have a better situation," she said.

India introduced the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 to create a safe environment for women employees at work.

There should be a minimum of four members in an employer-formed ICC, one of whom should be an outsider and ICC should ensure that half of their members are women.

But, there have been allegations that many firms don't have a functional ICC. "There should be a stringent mechanism to look into if the companies have POSH committees and if they are actually working. A year end POSH report doesn't ensure the ICC is fully functional. If your company doesn't have an ICC, you can approach the labour commission instead of going to the police," said advocate Supriya Mehta.

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tender & notices

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The public are hereby notified that Smt. Anjinamma, W/o Late Sri.Peddanna, aged about 74 years, residing at Maralubagilu, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural, is the owner of the schedule property and that Original Gift Deed dated 21/08/2013 registered at office of Sub Registrar, Shivajinagar(Banaswadi), Bangalore hearing document No. BNS-1-07158/2013-14 of the said property has been lost and an information is given to the concerned police and affidavit sworn in this regard. If any person trace the Original Gift Deed please handover to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE: All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Sy.No.23/4, land measuring 0-02 Guntas, and Old Sy.No.49/2, New Sy.No.49/3, land measuring 0-16½ Guntas, situated at Kyalasanahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, and bounded as follows:

East by: Property belongs to Chikkanarayanappa.
West by: 10 feet passage of same property and property belongs to Sri.Anjinappa & Sy.No.23/5 land belongs to our family.
North by: House Belongs to Smt.Venkatagiriyappa.
South by: Government Road & Property belongs to Sri.B.Anjinappa.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Murali LR S/o Raghavendra R/o #252,NTI layout 1st Phase,Kodigehalli,Bengaluru-92 have changed my minor son name from Abhirath Murali to Abhiratha M Gowda,vide affidavit dated 03-Apr-23 sworn before notary LB Anasuyamma.

I, Sunil Kumar Viswanath r/o # 1961 South End D Main Road 9th Block Jayanagar B'luru-560069 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar Vishwanath for all Purposes.

I, Mahesh.G Son of Sri Govindaiah.C, (Aadhaar 9246 5706 2346) Dob:16-08-1989, R/o No. Ews-179, New Kantha Raja Urs Road, Kuvempu Nagar Mysore-570023, Have Changed My Name to Sriyaan for All Purposes, Notary Affidavit 01/04/2023.

I, Poonam Mitra R/o #102 , M Block Ajmera Infinity Neeladri Nagar Electronic city Phase-1 B'lore-560100 have changed my minor son's name from Shivam Bose Sarbadhikary to Shivam Mitra vide affidavit dated 04.04.2023 sworn before Notary S.R.Thulasikrishna.

I, Dev Mehta S/o Kaushik Navinchandra Mehta R/at no 901, old no 39, 2nd Main, 4th Block Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560010. I have changed my name to Dev Kaushik Mehta. Vide affidavit dated 03-04-23 sworn before notary V. Rangaramu B'lore.

I, Mahendra Kumar Vishram Patel S/o Vishram L Patel R/o #14, Vijay Laxmi Nilaya, 6th Main, BTM 2nd Stage, MICO Layout B'luru-560076 have changed my name to Mahendra Vishram Patel for all purposes.

I, Usha Aswth Vurtu Aswatha r/o # 4, 9th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, B'luru-560011 have changed my name to Usha Ashwath Vurtur Aswatha for all Purposes.

I, Anitha Channapur Renuka r/o # 1961 South End D Main Road 9th Block Jayanagar B'luru-560069 have changed my name to Anitha Kumar for all Purposes.

I, Jamunadevi Munibyrappa r/o 36, Kariyappanahalli, Bannerghatta Post B'luru-560083 have changed my name to Jamuna Munibyrappa for all Purposes.

I Sandhiya S W/O, Rajasekaran Seethapathy R/o No 4/2 First Floor, K K Lane, 2nd Cross, Near Tawkal Mastan Darga Cottonpet, Bangalore - 560053 have changed my name to Sandhiya Rajasekaran for all purposes.

I, D V Susheela W/o Rajesh K V residing at No.28, Thunga Nilaya, Near L N R Kalyana Mantapa, Ramohalli, Bangalore- 560074 have changed my name to Susheelamma, vide affidavit dated 03.04.2023 sworn before notary Devaraja, B.lore.

I, Govindaraj Srinivasa R/o Sri Nilaya' #94/4 Flat No 301 28th B Cross Jayanagar 4th Block East Post B'luru-560011 have changed my name to Govindaraju Srinivas for all Purposes

I, Dattatreya Hegde S/o Ramakrishna Hegde R/o # 55 Trinetra 1st Main Road Near Navodaya School Varadarajaswamy Layout 1st Phase Singapura Bengalore-97 have changed my name to Dattatraya Hegde S/o Late Ramakrishna Hegde for Passport purposes.

I Somashekharappa Chinnada Upparige Karisiddappa S/O, Karisiddappa Chinnada Upparige Halappa R/o 42,1st Cross, Anjaneya Nagar Bsk 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Somashekhar Chinnada Upparige Karisiddappa

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Justice report places Karnataka in top spot

Report also reveals: •Over 77% of prisoners in country are undertrials •There is backlog of 4.8 crore cases •Jails over-occupied by over 130%

The Karnataka ranks at the top of the 18 large and mid-sized Indian states, with a population of over one crore each, in justice delivery --police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid -- in the country, as per the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022.

However, the latest data also indicated that as of December 2022, India had 19 judges per million population, a backlog of 4.8 crore cases, and prisons were over-occupied at over 130 per cent, more than two-thirds of the prisoners (77.1 percent) are undertrials, and vacancy among high court judges is at 30 percent.

According to the India Justice Report (IJR) 2022, which ranks states on delivery of justice in the country, Karnataka is at the top followed by Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh is at rank 18 which is the lowest, as per the report released here on Tuesday.

The report said that in the list of seven small states, with a population less than one crore each, Sikkim is at the top followed by Arunachal Pradesh, and Tripura is at rank three and Goa is at rank seven.

The report has tracked the performance of states in capacitating their justice delivery structures to effectively deliver mandated services and based on latest official statistics, from authoritative government sources, it brought together otherwise siloed data on the four pillars of justice delivery - police, judiciary, prisons, and legal aid.

Each pillar was analysed through the prism of budgets, human resources, workload, diversity, infrastructure, and trends (intention to improve over a five-year period), against the state's own declared standards and benchmarks. The IJR also separately assessed the capacity of the 25 state human rights commissions. The report stressed that vacancy is an issue across police, prison staff, legal aid, and the judiciary.

It further added that for 1.4 billion people, India has about 20,076 judges with about 22 per cent sanctioned posts vacant and vacancy among high court judges is at 30 per cent. It said that as of December 2022, India had 19 judges per million population when calculated against the sanctioned strength, and a backlog of 4.8 crore cases. The Law Commission had desired, as early as 1987, it should be 50 judges per million in a decade's time from then, it added.

The Parappana Agrahara Central Prison in Bengaluru

The report said prisons are over-occupied at over 130 per cent and over two-thirds of the prisoners (77.1 per cent) are awaiting the completion of investigation or trial. It added that in the police, women are only about 11.75 per cent, despite their numbers doubling in the last decade and about 29 per cent of the officer positions are vacant. The police to population ratio is 152.8 per lakh, whereas the international standard is 222.

According to the report, most states have not fully utilised funds given to them by the Centre and their own increase in spending on the police, prisons, and judiciary has not kept pace with overall increase in state expenditure.

It said that the justice system remains affected by low budgets and India's per capita spend on free legal aid - which 80 per cent of the population is eligible for - is a meagre Rs 3.87 per annum. Except for two Union Territories, Delhi and Chandigarh, no state spends more than 1 per cent of its total annual expenditure on the judiciary, said the report.

The IJR was initiated by Tata Trusts in 2019, and this is the third edition. Partners include Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, TISS-Prayas, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and How India Lives, IJR's data partner.

The report is based on 24-month quantitative research and the IJR 2022, like the previous two, has tracked the performance of states in capacitating their justice delivery structures to effectively deliver mandated services. **– IANS**

'In judiciary, no state met all 3 quota needs'

None of the states have been able to meet all three quotas for SC, ST and OBC positions in Judiciary at the subordinate/district court level, the 2022 India Justice Report (IJR) informed on Tuesday.

The report further added that only 13 per cent of subordinate court judges are women.

The IJR report mentioned that Karnataka remains the only state to consistently meet its quota for SC, ST and OBC positions, both among police officers and the constabulary.

However, it pointed out that in the Judiciary, at the Subordinate/District Court level, no state met all three quotas.

"Only Gujarat and Chhattisgarh met their respective SC quotas. Arunachal Pradesh, Telangana, and Uttarakhand

met their respective ST quotas. Kerala, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Telangana met OBC quotas," the report said.

The report also said that the share of women across the justice system in Police, Prisons, Judiciary and Legal aid is 1 out of 10 is a woman. "While the overall share of women in the Police force is about 11.75 per cent, in the officer ranks it is still lower at 8 per cent. Only 13 per cent of High Court judges and 35 per cent of Subordinate Court judges are women. Among Prison staff, they are 13%. A majority of states have increased the share of women panel lawyers. Nationally, the share has increased from 18 to 25 per cent," the report said.

Pointing to infrastructure, the report stated, "About 25% -- one in four -- police stations do not have a single CCTV. Nearly three in 10 police stations do not have women help desks."

Talking about the budget allocated to the judiciary and legal aid, the report said that the national per capita spend on judiciary stands at Rs. 146 and no state spends more than one per cent of its total annual expenditure on the Judiciary. **– ANI**

New idea to raise awareness on tobacco addiction

The Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka (CFTFK) along with the Association of Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS), has appealed to all political parties to include tobacco issues among children in their election manifestos.

They say this step will safeguard children from falling prey to tobacco addiction.

"While there are many provisions in the existing tobacco control law - Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) - to shield children from this addiction, lack of enforcement and non-compliance by tobacco companies are making it difficult to put a check on underage individuals consuming these harmful products. Rampant smoking by adults in public places is yet another aspect that should be looked at," said a member of CFTFK at a press meet organised on Tuesday.

Members of CFTFK also highlighted that sections 4,5,6 and 7 of COTPA have provisions to protect children from tobacco products. According to D Shashikumar, general secretary, KAMS, children are being initiated into tobacco use as a result of glamorising tobacco use on-screen by celebrities.

"Tobacco companies get away with glamour through celebrities by a disclaimer. The disclaimer has the least effect on children and young people. Indirect advertisement is another way that tobacco companies deploy to lure children. Unregulated OTT platforms too are a source of attraction to tobacco," said Shashikumar.

Members from both organisations demanded an amendment to the pending COTPA bill of 2020 to keep children safe. Experts also brought up the health impact. They highlighted that tobacco usage during adolescence increases the risk of developing psychiatric disorders and cognitive impairment later in life.

"Nicotine, one of the over 7,000 poisonous substances that tobacco contains, is as addictive as cocaine and heroin and affects the brain development of adolescents. Adolescent tobacco users also suffer from attention deficit, which aggravate with the years of usage," said Dr Ramesh Bilimagga, radiation oncologist and president of CFTFK. **— BMB**

PAID PREVIEWS TOMORROW
THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE
IN IMAX 3D, 3D, 4DX AND 2D
IN CINEMAS APRIL 7
ENGLISH AND HINDI
PVR CINEMAS | INOX CINEMAS | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS |
GOPALAN CINEMAS | INNOVATIVE | CINEPHILE | DRC CINEMAS Mysore |
BHARATH CINEMAS | MOVIETIME Davangere
& Other Cinemas.

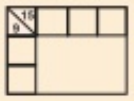
farnaz

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

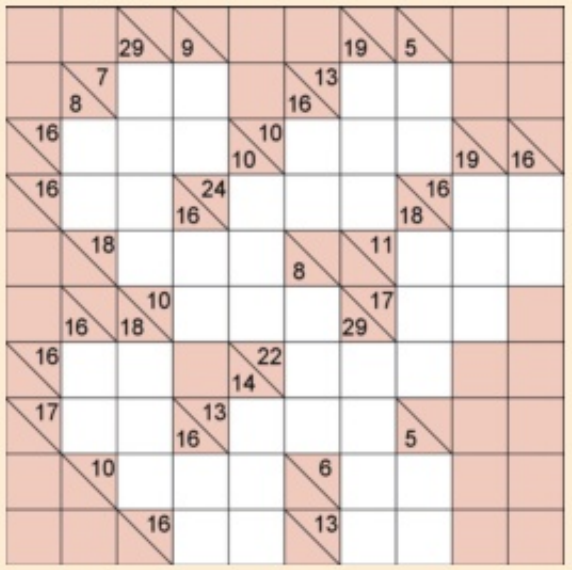
List all 2-digit prime numbers which are also prime numbers after their 2 digits switch places.

Kakuro

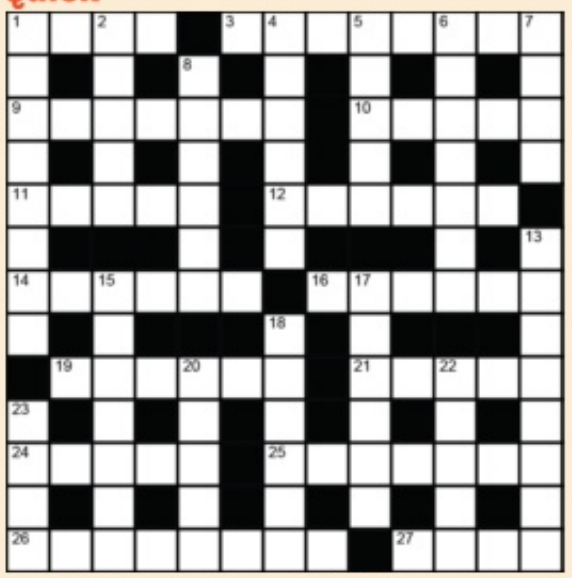
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Farm building (4)
3 Distinguished fighters (8)
9 Canadian province (7)
10 Lock of hair (5)
11 Float aimlessly (5)
12 Not native (6)
14 Fix or straighten (6)
16 A French cake (6)
19 On fire (6)
21 Military stations (5)
24 New Zealand native (5)
25 Like a cyclops? (3-4)
26 Find out (8)
27 Like the Gobi (4)

DOWN

1 Governor of Karnataka from 2009 to 2014 (8)
2 Jewish priest (5)
4 Greatly surprises someone? (6)
5 Proportion (5)
6 Single occasion (3,4)
7 Frame (4)
8 Pens (6)
13 Ebbed, lessened or died down (8)
15 Collections of odds and ends? (3-4)
17 Strolled (6)
18 Go away! (6)
20 Mexican friend (5)
22 More bashful (5)
23 In the company of or in the middle of (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS T

RQVZAATQSJODSJV ZCD JT JWD VTIN GWZJ Z JWISRD-CVJTCO QV JT JWD ZQC.

Linemaro

Last night I looked up at the sky and every star gave me a reason why I love you

Mindchow

Return to old watering holes for more than water . . friends and dreams are there to meet you

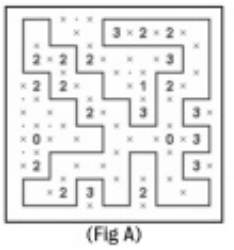
Joke of the day

Archaeologists have just made a new discovery about the Mayan calendar .. .if you turn it over, there's another 2012 years on the other side

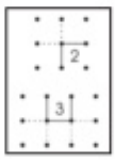
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



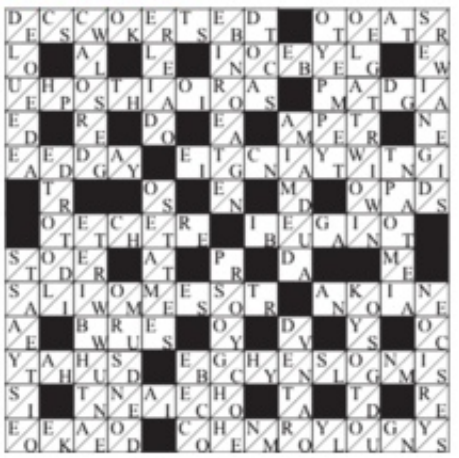
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

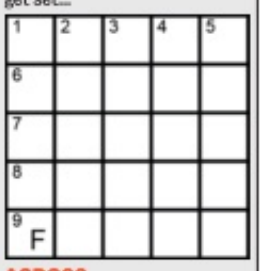
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

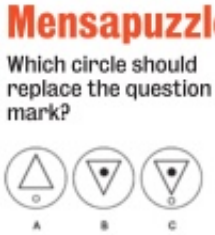
1 Log at; 6 Dirge; 7 In die; 8 Eg set; 9 Froth

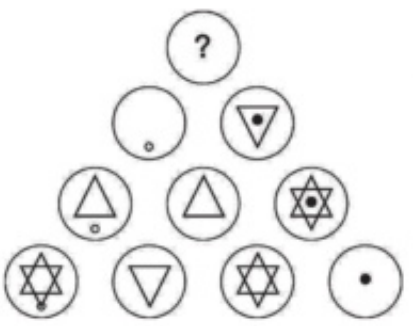
DOWN

1 If Erg; 2 Log in; 3 Red do; 4 Gaits; 5 The ET

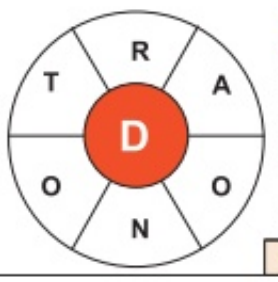
Mensapuzzle

Which circle should replace the question mark?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

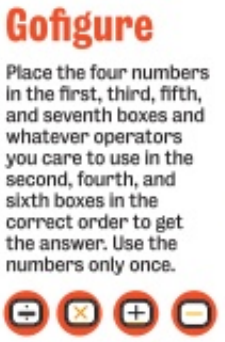
SudokuChallenge

5				6			8	4
2	9							6
		6	5	7			3	
		8	2		7			
	6						2	
			6		9	7		
	5			9	1	2		
4							9	8
8	7			2				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 15 (1 2 4 8)

Medium = 24 (2 3 6 9)

Hard = 19 (3 7 8 7)

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Pizza box is larger. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Patch is added to sleeve. 4. Nose is smaller. 5. Bush is moved. 6. House is not as wide.

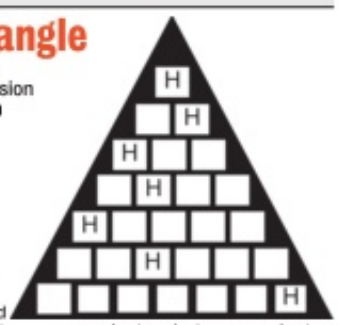
Riddler

Below are 3 pairs of words. Find the words that fit in the middle of each pair of words to create two new words, one front-ended and one back-ended. Example: Ever - _____ - Horn Answer: Ever - Green - Horn

Slip _____ Lined
Bread _____ Case
Other _____ Crack

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 1
2 Surprised expression
3 Feminine pronoun
4 Mother of Zeus
5 Courage
6 Iranian capital
7 Dig up



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HEY, HEART, DEAN DROPPED SOMETHING OFF FOR YOU!
OH, COOL! I HAVEN'T PLAYED THIS IN YEARS.
THANKS FOR THE GAME!
NO PROBLEM! WHAT DID YOU NAME YOUR CHARMANDER?
HOW DID YOU KNOW I PICKED CHARMANDER?
BEST FRIENDS KNOW EACH OTHER'S STARTERS!

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be spiritual and help needy people around you. You may also plan to donate some amount to charity or a spiritual place. Your good karma may help you succeed in difficult projects. You may feel some divine power around you that can help you in unpredictable situations. You may be attracted to the occult. Students are likely to enjoy studying in-depth.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel dull and may be a victim of hidden fear, which may scare you. You are not in a situation to trust anyone. It is advised to meditate and chant some prayer, which may help you come out of this hypothetical situation. With the help of elder's blessings around late evening, you may come out of this messy situation.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be busy at work, and your network may increase. With the help of your network, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are likely to start innovation in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in the near future. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will improve.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may find yourself in a self-analysis state, which will bring some confidence in you. Your focus towards your goals is now clear, and you may succeed in achieving them. Your creativity might improve, and you will take an interest in artifacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. At the end of the day, you may feel some satisfaction related to your life. Your opponents are likely to be under control now.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are likely to use your creativity to renovate your house or office. Your focus towards your goals may be good. Overworking may tire your mind, which can create anxiety, restlessness, and stress that may affect your domestic life. Students are advised to avoid fantasies in their studies, and they are advised to study with focus and dedication.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be dissatisfied, and people around you may not cooperate with you. You are advised to keep patience. You are also advised to read documents carefully before signing any contracts. Making new investments in useless stuff may be a bottleneck for you. Students are advised to read their subjects with patience.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic, and you may be more focused, which may speed up your postponed projects. Your subordinates may help you start a new project, which may give you profit in the near future. You may expect some short trips related to your family issues. Job seekers may hear good news in terms of a job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy with family issues. You may make some important decisions on the domestic front. You should avoid making arguments about personal life matters. Your arrogance may affect domestic harmony. You are advised to follow your intuition before making investments in the business.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, your inner strength may help you start some new innovations on the work front. You may likely get a big order in your parental business, which will increase growth in the business in the near future. Some new responsibilities in your job may make you busy, and job seekers might get a good job. Understanding with your spouse may improve, which can maintain harmony in family life.

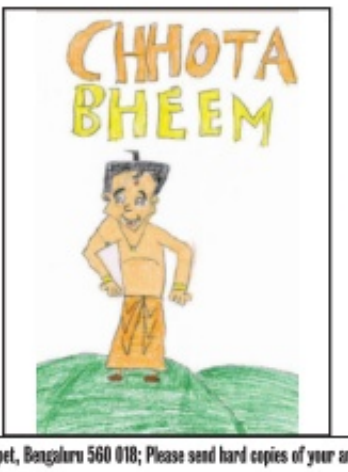
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel dull, and your health may not be good. You may be nervous and have anxiety and restlessness. You are advised to postpone your important investments in the business or real estate. You are advised to avoid rash driving and long-distance travel. You are advised to do some meditation; it will be helpful in controlling messy situations.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may have to deal with some unexpected situations at work. You are advised to stay calm and focused, and avoid making impulsive decisions. You may receive some good news regarding your finances, and your investments may yield profits. It is a good day for students to focus on their studies, and for job seekers to explore new opportunities.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may face some challenges in your personal life, but your patience and perseverance will help you overcome them. You may receive some unexpected financial gains, which will boost your confidence. It is a good day for creative pursuits, and for spending time with your loved ones. Students are advised to stay focused on their studies.

KIDZONE

Poojitha R, 9 Years, Sadhguru Sainath International School



Sandeep N. Bhandarkar, 11 Years, MES Kishore Kendra

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
9 [11, 13, 17, 31, 37, 71, 73, 79, 97]

RIDDLER
Slip – Stream – Lined, Bread – Basket – Case, Other – Wise – Crack

QUOTE UNCODE
Disappointments are to the soul what a thunderstorm is to the air.

BULL'S EYE
adorn, darn, dart, donor, door, drat, trod

FAST FIVE
radon, road, toad, TORNADO,

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
G: each pair of circles is added together to produce the circle above, but similar symbols disappear

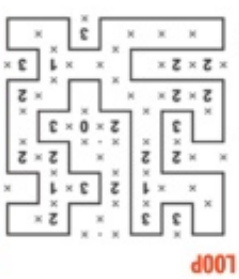
SUDOKU

5	3	7	9	6	2	1	8	4
2	9	4	3	1	8	5	7	6
1	8	6	5	7	4	9	3	2
9	1	8	2	5	7	4	6	3
7	6	5	1	4	3	8	2	9
3	4	2	6	8	9	7	5	1
6	5	3	8	9	1	2	4	7
4	2	1	7	3	5	6	9	8
8	7	9	4	2	6	3	1	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Eh, Her, Rhea, Heart, Tehran, Unearth.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 8 + 1 + 4 = 15
Medium
9 + 6 − 3 × 2 = 24
Hard
8 − 3 + 7 + 7 = 19

LOOP



KAKURO

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Leo testifies in money laundering case

Leonardo DiCaprio testified at Fugees rapper Pras Michel's trial in a money laundering case. The actor testified his link with Pras and Jho Low, a Malaysian financier who is on the wanted list for corruption

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Entertainment Industry Promotion

STYLE MANTRA

Find out what Kareena, the queen of glam, thinks about her husband's style

Kareena Kapoor Khan can be called an eternal style icon! The actress who has been in the industry for 23 years has stood the test of time and brought in her own individuality - that's perhaps why she's loved so much. While Bebo makes a casual gym look stylish, she also has a Poo (her character from Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham) in her which she channelises sometimes.

In a recent interview, Kareena spoke about Saif Ali Khan's style while also opening up if Jeh and Taimur have a say on how she dresses up. Kareena said in an interview with Pinkvilla, that Saif is quite casual! So much so, that he can wear the same track pants for five years and won't buy a new one until she tells him. Sometimes, Saif has worn a t-shirt with five holes and when Kareena pointed that out to him, he said, 'so what?' But Bebo thinks that Saif is the most stylish man ever and he doesn't have to try too hard for it. He's inherently stylish.

> **"Saif is the most stylish man and he doesn't have to try too hard. He has an impeccable taste in clothes, books and places**

The actress further revealed that Saif will wear the opposite of what the stylist will give him. He has an impeccable taste in clothes, interior design, food, good books or places. Kareena doesn't think anyone can style Saif!

Kareena will begin shooting for 'The Crew' and said that one can expect the film to be stylish since Rhea Kapoor is the producer. She had also said that the film will be an entertaining one, quite a contrast from her other projects, 'The Devotion Of Suspect X' and Hansal Mehta's film." **— ETimes**

Lungi dance

Actress Pooja Hegde had a whale of a time shooting for the song 'Yentamma' and said the highlight was to dance in a lungi.

Launched on Tuesday, the song is picturised on Salman Khan and Venkatesh, who are later joined by Ram Charan. Pooja too is seen in the song dancing in a red coloured shirt paired with a mundu.

"I had a blast while shooting for 'Yentamma' with Salman Khan, Ram Charan and Venketesh Daggubati sir. The moment I heard the song, we knew it was going to be an absolute hit amongst the masses," said the actress.

Pooja added: "The highlight of the song shoot was dancing in a lungi with all my heart. I strongly feel that 'Yentamma' is going to be one of those dance numbers which is going to play at every wedding and party. The song also features Shehnaaz Gill, Palak Tiwari, Raghav Juyal and Siddharth Nigam. **—ETimes**

Somewhere over the rainbow

Actress Rashmika will be seen next in the Tamil-Telugu movie titled 'Rainbow' by SR Prabhu's production house 'Dream Warrior Pictures.'

Rashmika looked excited about the movie as taking to her Instagram she posted a heartwarming message with pictures from the set to disclose details about the project.

The actress wrote "Rainbow.. it's a beautiful gift from nature that you can just sit back and watch but you can't touch.. This story is something so amazing that I can't put it in words but can only bring alive for all of you onscreen.. and for it, I need your love and blessings.. this is not possible without you.. and I hope I make you happy with this one..." Samantha reacted to the announcement by commenting 'All The Best.'

Dev Mohan who has worked with Samantha in 'Shaakuntalam' is going to play the male lead in the movie. The music score will be provided by Justin Prabhakaran. Written and directed by Shantharuban 'Rainbow' is an emotional journey that Rashmika wishes to bring alive on screen.

Rashmika is also in the headlines for recently performing the Oscar-winning song 'Naatu Naatu' at NMACC Gala with 'Gangubai' fame actress Alia Bhatt.

She also performed at IPL 2023's grand opening ceremony at the Narendra Modi Stadium. **—ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Of our time

A Kannada movie based on YouTubers Gangster Alla Prankster is ready for release.

Tilak Shekhar of Ugram fame plays the gangster, while director Girish Kumar B plays the prankster in this film shot in Bengaluru and Doddaballapur. Gangster Alla Prankster is Girish Kumar's third film as a director. "The movie is a comedy and action drama. We are making arrangements for the release of this movie in May or June. As of now, we are busy with post-production work. Its audio rights were bought by Anand Audio. The movie has four songs with music by John Kennedy," said Girish.

He said the film showcases YouTubers, who are like spiders, and what happens when spiders get trapped in their own web. "The script is relevant to the current generation," he said.

Three stories

Debutante director Diwakar Dimdima is busy with arrangements for the release of movie Jugalbandi, an anthology film with three different stories. The movie's post production work is over and it is expected to hit the screen shortly.

"I wanted to narrate three different stories in two to two-and-half hours for the audiences. The three tales are different and interesting. The movie was shot in and around Bengaluru for 40 days," said Diwakar.

Apart from handling the megaphone, Diwakar has bankrolled this movie under the Dimdima Productions banner. Prior to this, Diwakar worked as an associate for director Urs Anthare. Before this, he used to work as a software engineer and quit the job in 2017 to focus on directing movies.

"The movie's trailer and songs were released recently, which were appreciated by many. The stories are about three different categories: One is about a childless woman who craves kids, the other about two lovers and the third about two friends – one visually challenged and the other hearing impaired," the director said.